

Appl. No: 10/626,897

Amendment and Response dated June 6, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The interlocking attaching system of claim 6; An interlocking attaching system for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object, the system comprising:

5 a one piece molded substrate adapter including a generally flat base having a bottom side for affixing to the substrate object and a top side having a plurality of raised regions formed thereon at spaced apart locations disposed along a first main axis, the raised regions having slots formed therein defining a first plurality of passages oriented parallel to the first main axis and aligned with one another along a first passage axis;

10 a one piece molded accessory adapter including a generally flat base having a bottom side for affixing to the accessory object and a top side having a plurality of raised regions formed thereon at spaced-apart locations disposed along a second main axis, the raised regions having slots formed therein defining a second plurality of passages oriented parallel to the second main axis and aligned with one another along a second passage axis, the spacing between the locations of the raised regions of the adapters
15 being dimensioned to position at least one of the raised regions of one of the adapters between at least two of the raised regions of the other adapter when the adapters are placed in operational alignment with their respective top sides together and the with the first and second passage axes aligned with one another;

20 a discrete locking member having a leading end and a trailing end and being removably insertable leading-end-first through the passages on the raised regions of both of the adapters when the adapters are in operational alignment;

wherein insertion of the locking member through the passages on the raised regions of both of the adapters when the adapters in operational alignment interlocks the accessory

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object to the substrate object, and withdrawal of the locking member from the passages releases the accessory object from the substrate object;
wherein at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter is formed of a polymer material using injection molding; and
wherein the respective bases of the substrate and accessory adapters do not extend beneath the respective raised areas of each adapter.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, further comprising:~~ An interlocking attaching system for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object, the system comprising:

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a one piece molded substrate adapter including a generally flat base having a bottom side for affixing to the substrate object and a top side having a plurality of raised regions formed thereon at spaced apart locations disposed along a first main axis, the raised regions having slots formed therein defining a first plurality of passages oriented parallel to the first main axis and aligned with one another along a first passage axis;

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a one piece molded accessory adapter including a generally flat base having a bottom side for affixing to the accessory object and a top side having a plurality of raised regions formed thereon at spaced-apart locations disposed along a second main axis, the raised regions having slots formed therein defining a second plurality of passages oriented parallel to the second main axis and aligned with one another along a second passage axis, the spacing between the locations of the raised regions of the adapters being dimensioned to position at least one of the raised regions of one of the adapters between at least two of the raised regions of the other adapter when the adapters are placed in operational alignment with their respective top sides together and the with the first and second passage axes aligned with one another;

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a discrete locking member having a leading end and a trailing end and being removably insertable leading-end-first through the passages on the raised regions of both of the adapters when the adapters are in operational alignment;
wherein insertion of the locking member through the passages on the raised regions of both of the adapters when the adapters in operational alignment interlocks the accessory

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object to the substrate object, and withdrawal of the locking member from the passages releases the accessory object from the substrate object;

a first component of a latching mechanism for releasably securing the locking member in a predetermined position of engagement with the accessory adapter disposed on the accessory adapter;

a second component of the latching mechanism disposed on the locking member; and

wherein the first and second components of the latching mechanism are operably engaged when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter.

Claim 9 (original): The interlocking attaching system of claim 8, wherein at least one first component of a latching mechanism is disposed at each end of the accessory adapter such that the second component of the latching mechanism on the locking member is operably engaged to one of the at least one first components when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter from either direction.

Claims 10 - 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The interlocking attaching system of claim 13; An interlocking attaching system for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object, the system comprising:~~

a substrate adapter including a base having a bottom side for affixing to the substrate object and a top side having at least one loop column formed thereon, each loop column including a plurality of loops disposed at spaced apart locations along a column axis and oriented so as to define a common passage therethrough;

an accessory adapter including a base having a bottom side for affixing to the accessory object and a top side having at least one loop column formed thereon, each loop column including a plurality of loops disposed at spaced apart locations along a column axis and oriented so as to define a common passage therethrough;

a discrete locking member that is removably insertable through the common passages of both of the adapters;

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15 wherein the spacing between the loops of the adapters are dimensioned to position at least
 one of the loops of each loop column of one of the adapters between at least two of
 the loops of each corresponding loop column of the other adapter when the adapters
 are placed in operational alignment with their respective top sides together and with
 the common passages of the corresponding loop columns aligned; and
20 wherein insertion of the locking member into the common passages of the respective
 adapters when the adapters are in operational alignment interlocks the accessory
 object to the substrate object, and withdrawal of the locking member from the
 common passages releases the accessory object from the substrate object; and
 wherein at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter has at least two loop
25 columns formed thereon, the column axes of the loop columns being oriented parallel
 to one another.

Claim 15 (original): The interlocking attaching system of claim 14, wherein at least one of
the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter has at least four loop columns formed thereon; the
column axes of the loop columns being oriented parallel to one another.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): The interlocking attaching system of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14,
wherein the substrate adapter interlocks with an accessory adapter having a different number of loop
columns.

Claims 18 - 24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (new): The interlocking attaching system of claim 14, further comprising:
a first component of a latching mechanism for releasably securing the locking member in a
predetermined position of engagement with the accessory adapter disposed on the
accessory adapter;
5 a second component of the latching mechanism disposed on the locking member; and

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wherein the first and second components of the latching mechanism are operably engaged
when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter.

Claim 26 (new): The interlocking attaching system of claim 25, wherein at least one first
component of a latching mechanism is disposed at each end of the accessory adapter such that the
second component of the latching mechanism on the locking member is operably engaged to one of
the at least one first components when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory
adapter from either direction.

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